

widened by adding another through lane in each direction to provide six through lanes divided by a 22-foot median. With the adjacent two-way service roads, a right-of-way width of 360 feet was studied for these improvements.

For the new location Bypass Alternatives, a four-lane divided freeway with a 46-foot median would be constructed. A 46-foot median is deemed the minimum width that will provide adequate median drainage for the roadway subgrade. For these improvements, an initial right-of-way width of 325 feet was utilized in the preliminary studies. Once preliminary designs were further developed, a 250-foot right of way width was utilized.

2.5.2.3. Access Control

The proposed project will provide control of access along the entire length of the project. The Improve Existing US 70 Freeway Alternate and the Bypass Alternatives will provide full control of access while the Improve Existing US 70 Expressway Alternate will provide limited control of access by prohibiting direct driveway access to US 70 along the entire project.

2.5.2.4. Project Study Area

The proposed project is located in the southeastern portion of Craven County, North Carolina. Set in the eastern coastal plain region of the State, approximately 30 miles west of the Atlantic coast, the general topography of the study area is nearly level with slight relief along the stream terraces. The Neuse River provides the primary drainage for the study area. Goodwin Creek, Daniels Branch, Southwest Prong of Slocum Creek, East Prong of Slocum Creek, and Black Swamp all drain into Slocum Creek, a tributary of the Neuse River.

Existing US 70 is the only principal arterial that passes through the City of Havelock. The project study area begins along existing US 70 approximately 3.5 miles northwest of the City and extends approximately 10 miles to the southeast of the City near the Craven/Carteret County line. Through the project study area, existing US 70 is a multilane arterial with fourteen signalized intersections